



**:: REMODELING ::** Pvt. Grant Hawkins of Oroville, Calif., Earth Movers Platoon, Company A, 46th Engineer Combat Battalion (Heavy), demolishes the exterior wall at Joint Security Site Hurriya.

## Constructing peace through mission essential services

### 926th Eng. Bde.

At the end of May, the 926th Engineer Brigade, headquartered at Montgomery, Alabama, assumed authority for the theater of operations formerly assigned to the 35th Engineer Brigade. It took control of all engineer units responsible for combat engineering and construction effects missions throughout Baghdad and its environments.

The Brigade's mission, directed by Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Talley, was to provide integrated and synchronized combat and construction engineering capabilities to Multi-National Division – Baghdad. Recognizing the experience and resources of the 926th, Maj. Gen. Jeffery Hammond, commanding general, 4th Infantry Division, appointed Brig. Gen. Talley to serve formally as the division's engineer.

Key among the tasks carried out by the 926th Eng. Bde. during its deployment was providing freedom of maneuver through route clearance, counter-IED measures and route sanitation. The brigade provided design, build and contract capabilities in theater to conduct force protection and infrastructure improvements. The 926th

Eng. Bde. also provided all construction effects support for technical engineering and contracting for the 4th Inf. Div.'s G9 civil affairs unit for Sewer, Water, Electricity, Agriculture, Trash and Health.

In addition to providing engineering support for 4th Inf. Div. BCTs, the 926th Eng. Bde. assisted the Iraqi Army build its engineer capability and capacity throughout



**:: PARTNERING UP ::** 1st Lt. Richard Warehime, of Texarkana, Texas, and Capt. Marc Richardson, of Mountain Pine, Ark., meet with 1st Lt. Jusim Mohammed Wisam, of the 6th Iraqi Army, to conduct a joint route-clearance operation.

MND-B, especially in Sadr City.

Just as the 926th Eng. Bde. arrived in theater, the Battle for Sadr City wound down successfully and morphed into the reconstruction of Sadr City. Large scale kinetic action ceased, and a transition to redevelopment began. Hammond, mandated that following improved security conditions MND-B, in conjunction with the Government of Iraq, would focus on improving the quality of life of the residents of Sadr City. This directive included the basics of rubbish clearance and removal, humanitarian aid and medical assistance, installation of lighting, repair and development of sewer and water treatment systems, and the renovation and upgrade of electrical energy grid systems.

On May 30, MND-B issued FRAGO 389 and created Task Force Gold within the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Inf. Div.'s operational environment. Task Force Gold, under the direction of 926th Eng. Bde., was tasked with restoring essential services and improving the quality of life in the Sadr City district.

Immediate objectives included repair of road and sidewalks, trash and debris removal from streets, restoration of community parks and, in some cases, removal of raw sewage. This was the case on Route Kansas, where liquid waste was as deep as three feet in some areas. This unsanitary condition not only inhibited vehicular traffic to and from the local marketplace, but created serious health concerns with vendors selling produce to the local populace. By employing local citizens and contractors, the sewage that submerged Route Kansas for years was cleaned up within days. Traffic and businesses were restored and reopened and additional jobs created as a result.

The 926th Eng. Bde. transformed the quality of life in Sadr City. It engaged in many projects including the renovation of schools hospitals and clinics, sewer systems, pump stations and water treatment plants, electricity micro-generators, parks and recreation areas. In ways that could only have been imagined at the beginning of its deployment, the 926th Eng. Bde. helped build the firm foundation essential to the success of Gen. Petraeus' counter-insurgency strategy.



# Fleet of the sky

**:: EYE IN SKY ::** Sgt. David Brocato, crew chief, 4th Aviation Regiment, Combat Avn. Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, mans the gunner's seat of a Blackhawk helicopter before the start of a mission on Camp Taji July 20.

## Iron Eagles remain fierce, loyal to a successful mission

### CAB, 4th Inf. Div.

The Combat Aviation Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad, led by Col. Patrick Tierney and Command Sgt. Maj. Archie Davis, deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in June 2008. The deployment marked the unit's third tour to combat since the start of the war in 2003.

Upon arrival into the Baghdad area of operations, the "Iron Eagle" Brigade replaced 12th CAB out of Katterbach, Germany, as MND-B's primary aviation support asset.

The 1st Bn. "Dragons," 4th Avn. Regt., commanded by Lt. Col. Brian Bennett and Command Sgt. Maj. Lloyd Morant, and the 4th Bn. "Gambler Guns," 4th Avn. Regt., commanded by Lt. Col. Kevin Vizarri and Command Sgt.

Maj. Mark Grumbach, provided AH-64D Apache Attack Helicopter support for Soldiers on the ground in and around the Iraqi capital. The two battalions were also responsible for escorting air medical evacuations throughout MND-B.

The 2nd Bn. "Clydesdales," 4th Avn. Regt., commanded by Lt. Col. David Fleckenstein and Command Sgt. Maj. Donald Rose, was the CAB's most versatile battalion while deployed in support of OIF. The battalion's repertoire of aircraft included the RQ-7B 200 Shadow unmanned aerial vehicle, the UH-60 Blackhawk Helicopter and the HH-60 Blackhawk Air Ambulance Helicopter. The unit was also the first U.S. Army aviation battalion to bring the newly modified CH-47F Chinook Improved Cargo Helicopter into

combat. The Clydesdales were responsible for logistical aviation support, air medical evacuations, V.I.P. transport, air traffic control operations and UAV launch and recovery missions.

The 3rd Bn. "Comanche," 4th Avn. Regt., commanded by Lt.

Col Steven Palmer and Command Sgt. Maj. Charles Gray Wrightington, provided air assault capabilities and personnel transport operations with their fleet of Blackhawk helicopters.

The 404th Avn. Support Bn., commanded by Lt. Col. David George and Command Sgt. Maj. Mickey Somers, provided both aviation and ground maintenance support, fueling operations and brigade communications support.

The manning and operating of the brigade's various Forward Arming and Refueling Points throughout MND-B was one of the battalion's most critical missions. Arming an refueling operations were primarily provided by Company A, 404th ASB under the direction of Capt. Joshua Bundt and 1st Sgt. James Fitzgerald.

Upon the redeployment of the 4th Inf. Div., the CAB will continue its mission under the command of the 1st Cavalry Division.

Sgt. Jamiell Dominguez, flight medic, Combat Avn. Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, conducts pre-flight inspections on Camp Taji Aug. 2.








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# SOLDIER



**“Soldiers are the centerpiece of our formation. They are the ones who bear the hardships, the sacrifices and, at times, the loss of their brothers in arms. With every drop of blood that has been shed and every tear that has fallen, it is the Soldier who remains Steadfast and Loyal in the name of freedom. What has impressed me the most during 15 months in Iraq is how the Soldier remains resilient – no matter the adverse conditions, the harsh environment or the tough combat. I am truly honored to serve in their ranks and be called an American Soldier – an Ironhorse Soldier.”**

– Command Sgt. Maj. John Gioia  
Buffalo, N.Y.  
Senior Enlisted Leader  
4th Inf. Div. and MND-B

c. Austin Sandoval a native Lukachukai, Arizona, observes vehicles passing through an Iraqi military vehicle checkpoint in Taji Qada May 28. Sandoval is a mortar man assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 27th Infantry Regiment “Wolfhounds,” 3rd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad.

**:: WATCHFUL EYE ::** Spc. Mark Reihl, a military policeman assigned to the 1st Special Troops Battalion, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, provides security for members of an explosive ordnance disposal unit Aug. 21 during a munitions search in southern Baghdad.



## U.S. Army Soldiers remain centerpiece of 'Raider' Brigade Combat Team

### 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div.

Army Field Manuals may change from generation to generation, but the core competencies, the ethos that empowers today's U.S. Army Soldiers remain the same.

Nowhere is this more evident than with the Soldiers of the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, serving in support of Multi-National Division – Baghdad. The Soldiers continue to remain the one unchanging constant in the Raider Brigade's operational success.

Our Soldiers remain aware of the importance of their mission and the vital role that they play in accomplishing that mission. They continue to take charge for the lives of the Soldiers to their left and right and look steadfast toward more responsibility and the next challenge.

Raider Soldiers continue to support the Iraqi Security Forces as they have grown in their capabilities and strive to impart a standard of excellence upon their Iraqi counterparts.

During the past year, they have maintained a presence in the streets of Baghdad and continue to shoulder the burden of leadership working alongside Iraq's security forces.

The Soldiers of the Raider Brigade remain a living testament to the men and women deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. They have done great work, and the many successes that we enjoy today were hard fought and hard won.

Raider Soldiers continue to play a vital role in the world's history and make it seem effortless as they accomplish their day-to-day responsibilities.



**:: GREETINGS ::** 1st Lt. Justin Crawford, a platoon leader from Santa Barbara, Calif., says hello to a group of young Iraqis July 26 in the Aamel community of the Rashid district in southern Baghdad.



From direct combat operations with a determined enemy in Sadr City to fostering a resurging democracy in Adhamiyah, Soldiers of the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad have continually been at the forefront.

## Strikers favor successful mission – defending, rebuilding for Iraq's future tomorrow

### 3rd BCT, 4th Inf. Div.

Striker Soldiers have accomplished great things during this deployment to Iraq.

As Maj. Gen. Jeffery Hammond has continually said, "Soldiers are our credentials."

That was never more on display than during this rotation in Iraq. Whenever the bell has chimed, for whatever mission is asked, Striker Soldiers have continually stepped up to the challenge.

Soldiers who traditionally serve in support roles with the 64th Brigade Support Battalion were thrown head-first into the thick of combat operations in Sadr City to build the Jamilla/Al Quds road wall.

Soldiers quickly flipped the switch from assisting rebuild a fledgling nation to engaging and killing a



**:: COMFORT ::** Capt. Enardo Collazo, a Cangas, Puerto Rico, native, comforts an Iraqi child during a cooperative medical engagement in the al Bayrk neighborhood of northern Baghdad Jan. 24.

determined enemy only to flip the switch back and return to the same reconstruction projects they stopped before fighting broke out.

Striker Soldiers have been moved several times from the various combat outposts, joint security stations and forward operating bases throughout the operational environment.

Each time,

the Soldiers moved without hesitation to accomplish the next mission on the list.

The Soldiers of 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, have found more than 200 improvised-explosive devices, had more than 600 direct fire engagements with the enemy, fired more than 12,000 25mm rounds, shot more than 800 120mm rounds and killed or capture more than 1,000 Special Groups criminals.

These are credentials that every Striker Soldier can proudly stand behind.

**:: STEADFAST ::** Staff Sgt. William Clawson, a Flemington, N.J., native, provides security during a patrol in Sadr City district of Baghdad May 20.



**:: RISKY BUSINESS ::** Staff Sgt. William Moulds looks back at the positions of his fellow Soldiers during a foot patrol in the streets of Shulla June 7.



## Strike Soldiers continue to evolve with ever-changing war

**2nd BCT, 101st Abn. Div.**

When U.S. troops first crossed the border into Iraq in March 2003, they had one thing in mind – to destroy, defeat or capture the enemy forces as they pushed toward Baghdad to capture the capital city.

They successfully defeated the enemy, captured the capital city and removed Saddam Hussein from power.

The Soldiers of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), played a very significant role in the initial invasion into Iraq, where they also conducted two of the largest air assaults in the division's history.

The Strike troops led key battles in An Najaf, south Al Hilla, southern Baghdad, Mahmoudiya and Mosul.

This area, due to the intensity of the insurgency, was labeled the “Triangle of Death.” The brigade rapidly initiated combat and counter-insurgency opera-

tions in the area to essentially neutralize anti-Iraqi forces, develop the Iraqi Security Forces capabilities, secure key terrain and improve government and economic development.

However, when the troops of the Strike Brigade once again answered their nation's call in October 2007 and deployed to northwest Baghdad. Their mission would vary from their previous deployments. They would be asked to do things outside the normal tasks of a combat infantryman. Here, in northwest Baghdad, they would evolve as Soldiers.

Instead of strictly hunting down and capturing known criminals, they pushed out and trained ISF and Sons of Iraq, processed micro-grant applications to allow money to flow through the Iraqi economy, helped rebuild Public Work Substations and put Iraqi children back into newly refurbished schools.

“Iraq is a nation going through

**“I believe the individual Soldier recognized early in the war that an unconventional war requires unconventional thinking. ‘Big Army’ has done a great job resourcing the Army to win a (counter insurgency) fight; however, this war remains a ‘bottom-up fight.’”**

**Capt. Andrew Graziano**

changes” just as the Soldiers of the Strike Brigade are going through changes and adapting to their environment, said Sgt. Scott Ramey, a native of Elkhorn, Neb., with the 1st Squadron, 75th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd BCT, 101st Abn. Div., MND-B.

His experience during his first deployment has been relatively different than when his unit took over the Mansour District of northwest Baghdad in December 2007. The outgoing unit told them to soften their approach toward the Iraqis.

“They reminded us that violence is down and the majority of Iraqis want to participate in returning normalcy,” said Capt. Andrew Graziano, with the 4th Squadron, 10th Cavalry Regiment, attached to the 2nd BCT, 101st Abn. Div. “Today we are engaged in very expansive essential services reconstruction projects, energizing small businesses with grants and promoting the legitimacy of local governments. These programs are important because they will set a majority of the conditions for us to go home.”

And today, because of the quick adaptation of the individual Soldier, operations in northwest Baghdad continue to succeed; however, at any point, if threatened at all in anyway, Soldiers with the Strike Brigade are ready and fully trained for the battle.



**:: LOCAL TIME ::** Sgt. Brandon Griffis, a native of Pendleton, Ind., talks with an elderly Iraqi man during a dismounted patrol in Hurriyah March 21.



# Warrior Soldiers leave lasting impact



**:: GOOD MEASURES ::** Sgt. 1st Class Jeffrey Goodman, a native of Toledo, Ohio, hands a shirt to a child in Sab al Bour, northwest of Baghdad, May 9.

## 2nd SBCT, 25th Inf. Div.

Since the 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division's transformation from a light infantry unit into the Army's fifth Stryker Brigade Combat Team in 2006, the Soldiers have tirelessly trained to become one of the most lethal fighting forces, capable of deploying anywhere in the world in 96 hours.

The unit arrived in Iraq in December 2007. Since its arrival, the Soldiers have shown their grit and spirit.

With numerous missions, to include combat, joint operations, medical and training, the Warriors of 2nd SBCT are multi-talented and willing to accomplish the mission, no matter the task.

They have helped the people in the area surrounding Baghdad regain normalcy in their everyday lives. The Soldiers brought the people essential services, such as electricity and clean water, medical care for the sick and injured, and helped the Iraqi Security Forces become independent forces capable of providing a safe and secure environment for the people.

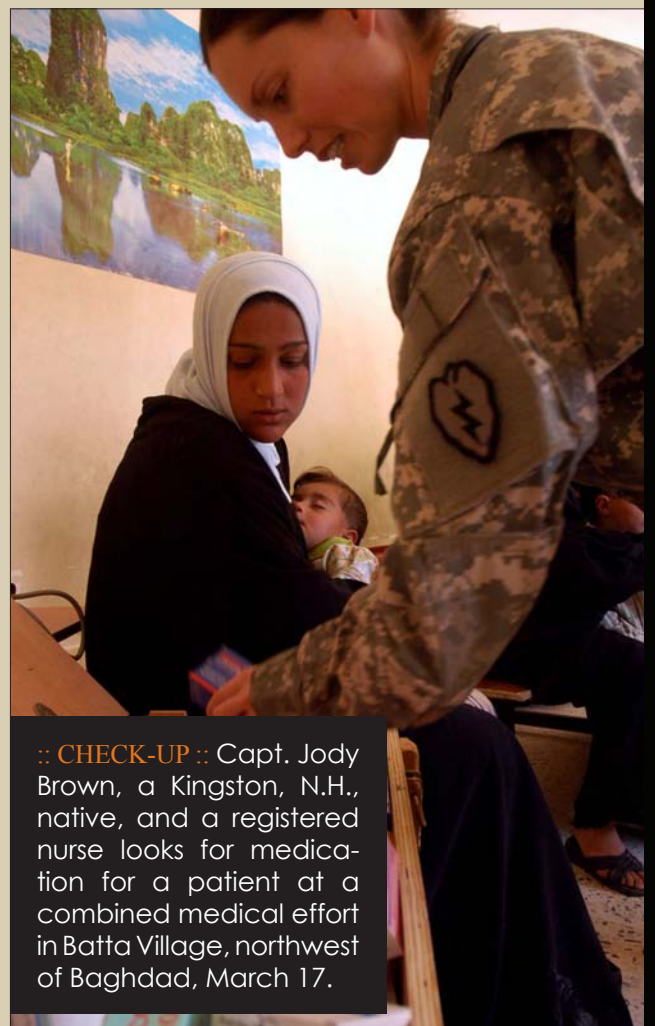
These Warriors have proven their mission readiness and ability to complete a wide range of tasks. Like their mission, the Warrior Soldiers are unique and diverse. They represent a wide range of backgrounds and cultures that all come together to form the Warrior spirit.

It is this diversity in cultures, which not only strengthened the unit, but also allowed them to seamlessly and effortlessly merge into the Hawaiian island of Oahu, truly embodying the island spirit of ohana, or Family.

After 15 months in Iraq, the Warrior ohana has grown to include our Iraqi friends.

The Soldiers have left a large and lasting footprint in Iraq. They were responsible for more than 1,700 square miles, larger than all other BCT land areas combined.

They've touched the lives of hundreds of thousands of people and changed their lives for the better.



**:: CHECK-UP ::** Capt. Jody Brown, a Kingston, N.H., native, and a registered nurse looks for medication for a patient at a combined medical effort in Batta Village, northwest of Baghdad, March 17.



» Patriots improve quality of life by establishing safe neighborhoods in New Baghdad.

#### 4th BCT, 10th Mtn. Div.

Supporting Patriot Brigade Soldiers was a priority of 4th Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division (Light) leadership during Operation Iraqi Freedom 07-09.

Maintaining Soldiers morale and letting them know they are appreciated and taken care of goes a long way in ensuring successful mission accomplishment during deployment. Patriot Brigade leaders are well aware of this and took measures to take care of their Soldiers while deployed to Baghdad.

Col. Mark Dewhurst, commander of 4th BCT, 10th Mtn. Div. (L), made sure his Soldiers received recognition for their hard work and sacrifices during OIF 07-09. He far exceeded division requirements to process Soldier Personal Identification Forms, which are intended to generate Soldier interviews with hometown media outlets to get the word out about the great work they do day in and day out. Dewhurst mandated Patriot Brigade units submit six times the number of PIFs set forth in the established standard – all with the intent of getting a greater number of Soldiers local, national and home station recognition.

However, units weren't limited to

submitting PIF forms for media interviews. This concept was expanded to allow units the flexibility of submitting print and photo releases to meet the requirement and was conducted in coordination with the hometown news release program.

In addition, Dewhurst was responsible for redesigning the Patriot Brigade magazine, a bi-monthly publication, to incorporate as many photos of Soldiers conducting their combat and support missions as possible. This proved to be a big morale boost for Patriot Brigade and attached Soldiers.

:: **SECURITY** :: Spc. Damon Hausey, an infantryman from Zachary, La., checks an Iraqi citizen's identification during a night mission in eastern Baghdad June 19.

## Patriot Brigade supports Soldiers to ensure successful missions



:: **GENTLE STRANGERS** :: Sgt. Joseph Quirarte, Pacifica, Calif. native, takes a moment to hold an Iraqi child while on patrol in a neighborhood near the forward operating base May 31.



:: **MAKING FRIENDS** :: Sgt. 1st Class James Boucher (right), a Lakewood, Wash., native, gives an Iraqi child an opportunity to dress up as a U.S. Army Soldier at the Al-Fahdl Clinic March 8.



# Attitude, multiple talents add to PTT mission accomplishment

18th MP Bde.



**:: SOLDIER PRIDE ::** Spc. Javoris Smiley, military police Soldier, 132nd MP Co., reassembles a M2 .50-caliber machine gun during a 2nd Quarter 2008 NCO/ Soldier of the Quarter Board held April 1 on Camp Victory, Iraq.



**:: BRONZE BRAVORY ::** Pfc. Perla Pedroza, Melrose Park, Ill., native and military police Soldier, received her Bronze Star Medal with "V" device for valor from Col. Mark Spindler, commander, 18th Military Police Brigade, in a ceremony held at Camp Liberty. Pedroza received the medal for valorous acts conducted after her squad's vehicle was attacked in July 2007.

**‘Ever Vigilant’** Soldiers from the 18th Military Police are no different when performing their mission as an MP, a mechanic, an administrator or logistician – Warriors!

## 18th MP Bde

When performing missions in Iraq, ‘Ever Vigilant’ military occupational skills take a back seat when it comes to accomplishing the mission at hand – security and stability.

As ‘Ever Vigilant’ Soldiers train Iraqi Police to take over responsibility, it takes all brigade Soldiers abilities and dedication to duty to form the team and complete the mission.

When conducting Police Transition Team tasks to develop the IP, military police use the talents of all our Soldiers every day.

The brigade’s PTTs, mostly consisting of military police Soldiers, have integrated elements of signal, mechanics, logisticians and administrative Soldiers as part of the team.

As ‘Ever Vigilant’ Soldiers improve

the overall organizational efficiency and self sustainment of Iraqi Police operations throughout the Baghdad Province in past 15 months, they have integrated all Soldiers functional skills into the enhanced PTT.

As a result, this allowed the Soldiers to bring their functional skills and expertise in support of the brigade’s mission.

Brigade Soldiers have manned check points, assessed police systems and participated in combat patrols with one focus: police primacy.

“Our specialties MOS Soldiers are proven and have demonstrated they have what it takes to get the job done,” said Command Sgt. Major Bernard McPherson, 18th MP Bde.

“Vigilant Soldiers: One fight, One team – I am an expert, and I am a professional. I am an American Soldier.”



**:: WIRED MP ::** Spc. George Ellis, (standing), signal support systems specialist, assists Sgt. Joshua Klassen install antenna cables to a tower that will support operational and tactical communications throughout the brigade’s area of responsibility.



# Engineers hold down the fort by serving up success

## 926th Eng. Bde.

The 926th Engineer Brigade believes in taking care of Soldiers. Whether it is providing morale, welfare and recreation events, promotions, awards or simply handing out mail. The brigade does it all.

The brigade has held many MWR events in order to boost the morale of Soldiers. One such event includes weekly barbeques at the 926th Eng. Bde. MWR tent. During the barbeques, Soldiers can relax, watch sporting events on the big screen television, play cards, read books or play board games. The brigade's MWR team has organized many MWR events, such as dominoes, spades and Texas Hold'em tournaments. At each event, Soldiers win great prizes donated by vendors at the PX Bazaar. Holding MWR events enables Soldiers to relax and get away from the stresses of work.

Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Talley and Command Sgt. Maj. Dan Zebrauskas complete battlefield circulations in order to view the work of the 46th Engineer Combat Battalion (Heavy) and the 890th Engineer Battalion.

During these visits, brigade coins are presented to Soldiers who have done an outstanding job. The 926th command team firmly stresses impact awards. So far, more than 500 awards have been presented to well-deserving Soldiers. The command team also makes it their personal mission to service their Soldiers with an open-door policy. When a Soldier has an issue or personal problem that they feel cannot be discussed with anyone – they



**:: FOB FUN ::** Sgt. 1st Class William Anderson, motor sergeant, and Pfc. Folomanu Taala, both of whom serve with Headquarters and Support Company, 46th Engineer Combat Battalion (Heavy), enjoy a "Block Party."

can openly talk to the brigade's command team.

The 46th ECB, out of Fort Polk, La., understands the theme of supporting Soldiers. In the realm of fun, HSC hosted a PAD 9 block party with a Mardi Gras theme.

The only way to

gain entrance to the party was to limbo your way in! Soldiers were able to enjoy a variety of food, games and fun. In addition, the 46th ECB believes in supporting its Soldiers. HSC, to date, has processed more than 65 promotions and 20 awards. Supply issued more than \$1,000,000 worth of supplies that support the fighting force.

The 46th ECB believes in building up Soldiers, and its HSC continuously proved to be the leader displaying esprit de corps. The 46th ECB had the largest participation in the Sapper Series 4.6K run in the 46th Eng. Bn.

The 890th Engineer Battalion, out of Gulf Port, Miss., has done an outstanding job of forging a team of Soldiers from all aspects of life and from every corner of the United States into a well-organized unit.

This unit not only works together for a common goal of mission first, but also the human goal of Soldier always.

**:: RADIO CHECK ::** Pvt. Jonathan Swenson, of North Branch, Minn., a 688th communications specialist, conducts a system check on the Blue Force Tracker prior to the Castle Iron Claw departing for route clearance.







# Combat Aviation Brigade

**:: EXPERT ADVICE ::** More than ten senior pilots from the 4th Infantry Division's Combat Aviation Brigade, who have had retirement or separation paperwork in hand, opted to postpone ending their careers with the Army while anticipating a deployment to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom 08-09

## Heart of the Iron Eagle Soldier soars above the clouds

### CAB, 4th Inf. Div.

There are many different types of Soldiers in the U.S. Army. Some prefer to be infantryman; others choose support roles, while a special breed of Soldier lives a life above the clouds.

Unlike the troops assigned to conventional Multi-National Division – Baghdad brigade combat teams, the Soldiers of the Combat Aviation Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, live and breathe aviation.

Virtually every job in the "Iron Eagle" Brigade specifically supports the launch and recovery of the more than 100 operational aircraft parked at the enormous airfield at Camp Taji.

The hierarchy that is aviation is respected across the board, and in plain speech the mission in Iraq, and more specifically

the MND-B mission in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom couldn't be done without the support of the 3,000 Soldier formation CAB, 4th Inf. Div.

An example of the true spirit of the officers, warrant officers and Soldiers of the Iron Eagle Brigade can be seen in an event that occurred in

March 2008, about three months before the unit embarked on its third deployment to Iraq in less than five years.

In an unprecedented act of selfless service, more than 10 pilots from across the brigade, on the brink of hanging up their boots and flight suits, decided to withdraw their retirement packets and join the brigade for its third mission in Iraq for OIF 08-09.

**"I think with my experience, I can help protect the good guys on the ground while teaching the younger pilots what I know."**

» Chief Warrant Officer 3 Robert Murphy

their boots and flight suits, decided to withdraw their retirement packets and join the brigade for its third mission in Iraq for OIF 08-09.

With many seeing action during Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm, the Bosnia-Herzegovina peacekeeping mission, the initial invasion of Iraq in 2003 and OIF 05-07, the aviation veterans decided to do it one more time.

"I was scheduled to retire before the upcoming deployment, but I decided to stay. I believe I still can be an asset to the company," said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Robert Murphy, maintenance test pilot with Company A, 4th Battalion, 4th Avn. Regt.

"I think with my experience, I can help protect the good guys on the ground while teaching the younger pilots what I know."

Even as the orders came down directing the unit to complete a lengthy tour of 15 months, the pilots held true to their commitment and once again etch their names in 4th Inf. Div. history.

"I decided to stay in because the job (in Iraq) isn't over yet," said Chief Warrant Officer 5 Gary Fewins, standardization instruction pilot from Chino, Calif., with the 4th Bn., 4th Avn. Regt.

Fewins joined the Army 21 years ago and has been on every 4th Inf. Div. OIF deployment.



# FAMILY

**“Whether they are husbands, wives, children, siblings or parents, our Families provide the foundation for who our Soldiers are – and are a vital link in our Team. When an enlisted Soldier, warrant officer or commissioned officer joins the Ironhorse Team, their Families join the Team as well. They are the cement that bonds us together. They are truly “Steadfast and Loyal” in their commitment and support of their loved ones and make numerous sacrifices and bear multiple hardships while keeping the home fires burning.”**

– Col. Peter Utley  
Philadelphia, Pa.  
Chief of Staff  
4th Inf. Div. and MND-B





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BAGHDAD – 1st Sgt. Thomas Gray, 64th Military Police Company, 18th MP Brigade, who is a native of Oxford, Conn., is swarmed by the children of Hurriyah following a community policing operation June 12, in which the children received toys and school supplies from the local police force and Multi-National Division – Baghdad Soldiers.

